

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(71)Applicant : SONY CORP

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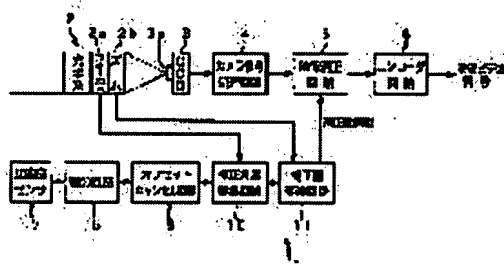
(72)Inventor : OKAWA ATSUSHI
HOSHINO MITSUO

(54) IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide the image pickup device that corrects properly a photographed image with respect to vibration in the case of using the image pickup device as an on-vehicle camera.

SOLUTION: The image pickup device 1 is provided with image pickup means 2, 3 that photograph an object, a vibration detection means 7 that detect vertical vibration of a vehicle, a distance calculation means 2a that calculates a distance up to the object, and video output correction means 10, 11, 5 that apply correction processing to an output video image based on the detection result of the vibration detection means 7 and the calculation result of the distance calculation means 2a as to the video signal generated by the image pickup means 2, 3.



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3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] An image pick-up means to picturize the above-mentioned photographic subject and to generate an image pick-up signal in the image pick-up equipment which is carried in a car and picturizes the photographic subject besides a car, An oscillating detection means to detect vibration of the vertical direction of the above-mentioned car, and a distance calculation means to compute the distance to a photographic subject, Image pick-up equipment characterized by having a video output amendment means to perform amendment processing about the image outputted based on the detection result of the above-mentioned oscillating detection means, and the calculation result of the above-mentioned distance calculation means about the above-mentioned video signal which the above-mentioned image pick-up means generated.

[Claim 2] The above-mentioned oscillating detection means is image pick-up equipment according to claim 1 characterized by having the acceleration sensor which detects vibration of the vertical direction of the above-mentioned car with acceleration, and an amount calculation means of displacement to compute the amount of displacement of the vertical direction of the above-mentioned car from the acceleration which the above-mentioned acceleration sensor detected.

[Claim 3] It is image pick-up equipment according to claim 2 characterized by performing amendment processing about the field angle of the image which once memorizes the above-mentioned video output amendment means about the above-mentioned video signal which the above-mentioned image pick-up means generated, and is outputted based on the detection result of the above-mentioned oscillating detection means, and the calculation result of the above-mentioned distance calculation means.

[Claim 4] The above-mentioned video output amendment means sets distance to the photographic subject computed by X and the above-mentioned distance calculation means about the field angle of the image to output in the amount of displacement of the vertical direction of the vertical direction of the above-mentioned car detected by the above-mentioned oscillating detection means to L , and is $\theta = \tan^{-1}(X/L)$.

Image pick-up equipment according to claim 3 characterized by performing amendment processing about the field angle of the image to output by whenever [** assistant sawn square].

[Claim 5] The 1st oscillating detection means which the above-mentioned oscillating detection means is arranged in the front-wheel side of the above-mentioned car, and detects the vertical vibration by the side of the front wheel of the car concerned, It is arranged in the rear wheel side of the above-mentioned car, and consists of the 2nd oscillating detection means which detects the vertical vibration by the side of the rear wheel of the car concerned. The above-mentioned video output amendment means Image pick-up equipment according to claim 1 characterized by

performing amendment processing about the image outputted based on the detection result of each oscillating detection means, and the calculation result of the above-mentioned distance calculation means about the above-mentioned video signal which the above-mentioned image pick-up means generated.

[Claim 6] The above-mentioned image pick-up means is image pick-up equipment according to claim 5 characterized by being arranged in the abbreviation mid-position by the side of the front wheel of the above-mentioned car, and a rear wheel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the image pick-up equipment for mounted cameras which is carried in a car and picturizes the photographic subject besides a car.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, generally image pick-up equipments, such as a video camera, spread widely, and diversification is attained about the application, operation, etc. Recently, making it run the car concerned, by being carried in cars, such as an automobile, for example as a mounted camera, image pick-up equipment photos an image powerful about the external photographic subject which moves relatively, or is used for the application of photoing the image of evidence for a criminal arrest of the police.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] By the way, when image pick-up equipments, such as a video camera, were used as a mounted camera, there was a problem that the image at the time of photography will shake by the vertical vibration generated at the time of transit of an automobile etc. The suspension has high-performance-ized cars, such as an automobile, every year, and although there is much what has the property which was excellent also about absorption of vibration, they cannot absorb vibration completely. For this reason, when photoing an external photographic subject with a mounted camera during transit of a car, the image which the vibration to the vertical direction mainly generated and photoed in running a road with much irregularity etc. will shake.

[0004] In addition, generally that in which the latest image pick-up equipment has a hand deflection amendment function has spread. This hand deflection amendment function detects the amount of shakes of the fixed direction with angular velocity for example, by the angular-velocity sensor, and performs optical or electric amendment to the image photoed according to that detection result.

[0005] However, since this hand deflection amendment function was a function on condition of using image pick-up equipment, having it by hand, when image pick-up equipment was used as a mounted camera, a good result was not obtained, but it had the problem that a photography image will shake. When the body of a camera is grasped by hand, the hand deflection amendment function of image pick-up equipment sways from the angular velocity of the biaxial direction which used that wrist as the supporting point, computes an amount, and, specifically, performs amendment to an image pick-up image based on this calculation result. Therefore, even if it was image pick-up equipment which has a hand deflection amendment function, when this was used as a mounted camera, the amount of deflections to the vibration to the vertical direction

mainly generated at the time of transit of an automobile etc. could not be computed correctly, but it had the trouble that amendment to a photography image could not be performed appropriately as a result.

[0006] This invention aims at offering the image pick-up equipment which can perform suitable amendment to vibration of a car, when it is proposed in view of such the actual condition and used as a mounted camera.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In the image pick-up equipment which is carried in a car and picturizes the photographic subject besides a car in order that this invention may solve the above-mentioned technical problem An image pick-up means to picturize a photographic subject and to generate an image pick-up signal, and an oscillating detection means to detect vibration of the vertical direction of a car, It has a distance calculation means to compute the distance to a photographic subject, and a video output amendment means to perform amendment processing about the image outputted about the video signal which the image pick-up means generated based on the detection result of an oscillating detection means, and the calculation result of a distance calculation means.

[0008] In image pick-up equipment, amendment processing about the image which a video output amendment means outputs about the video signal which the image pick-up means generated based on the detection result of an oscillating detection means and the calculation result of a distance calculation means is performed.

[0009]

[Embodiment of the Invention] It explains to a detail, referring to a drawing per gestalt of operation of the image pick-up equipment which applied this invention. The optical system 2 as which image pick-up equipment 1 inputs the image pick-up light of a photographic subject as shown in drawing 1 , The CCD imager 3 which changes the image pick-up light from optical system 2 into an electrical signal, The camera digital disposal circuit 4 which performs predetermined processing to the electrical signal about the image pick-up light from the CCD imager 3, It has the image amendment circuit 5 which performs amendment processing about the signal after the processing from the camera digital disposal circuit 4, and the encoder circuit 6 which performs predetermined processing to a signal from the image amendment circuit 5, and is outputted to it as an image video signal of an analog. Moreover, image pick-up equipment 1 is equipped with the acceleration sensor 7 which detects vibration of the fixed direction, the integrating circuit 8 which integrates with the detecting signal from an acceleration sensor 7 twice, the offset cancellation circuit 9 which removes an offset part produced by the acceleration sensor 7 and the integrating circuit 8, the amendment include-angle conversion circuit 10, and the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments.

[0010] Optical system 2 is equipped with focal device 2a which drives two or more optical lenses which are not illustrated and each optical lens, zoom device 2b, etc. In optical system 2, while the image pick-up light of a photographic subject is supplied to the CCD imager 3 through each optical lens, the information on the focal distance to a photographic subject is supplied to the above-mentioned amendment include-angle conversion circuit 10, and zoom device 2b supplies [focal device 2a] the information on a zoom scale factor to the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments, respectively.

[0011] The CCD imager 3 consists of a CCD drive circuit which drives CCD (Charge Coupled Device: charge-coupled device) as an image sensor, and this CCD. This CCD imager 3 receives the image pick-up light from optical system 2 by light-receiving side 3a by which Above CCD

has been arranged, changes into an electrical signal the image pick-up light which received light in a CCD drive circuit, and outputs it to the camera digital disposal circuit 4.

[0012] The camera digital disposal circuit 4 processes sample hold, A/D conversion, etc. from the CCD imager 3 to the inputted electrical signal, generates a digital image pick-up signal, and supplies this digital image pick-up signal (henceforth the image data before amendment) to the image amendment circuit 5.

[0013] An acceleration sensor 7 detects the acceleration of the fixed direction as acceleration information. In image pick-up equipment 1, this acceleration sensor 7 detects the acceleration of the vertical direction which joins the image pick-up equipment 1 whole as acceleration information by being attached in a case, a chassis, etc. which are not illustrated, for example.

[0014] It integrates with the acceleration information detected by the acceleration sensor 7 twice, and moves, and an integrating circuit 8 generates amount information, and outputs this amount information of motions to the offset cancellation circuit 9.

[0015] The offset cancellation circuit 9 removes components, such as a stationary [which was inputted] error produced from amount information by the acceleration sensor 7 or the integrating circuit 8 by moving, and a temperature drift, and generates the amount information of displacement about the amount of displacement of the vertical direction.

[0016] The amendment include-angle conversion circuit 10 is supplied to the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments based on the information on the focal distance to the photographic subject supplied from above-mentioned device [focal] 2a of optical system 2 by making into amendment include-angle information information which changed and changed the amount information of displacement on the vertical direction from the offset cancellation circuit 9 into the information on an include angle.

[0017] Based on the information on the zoom scale factor supplied from the above-mentioned zoom device 2b of optical system 2, and the amendment include-angle information supplied from the amendment include-angle conversion circuit 10, the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments computes about the amount of amendments about the front [amendment] image data from the camera digital disposal circuit 4, and is outputted to the image amendment circuit 5 by making a calculation result into the amount information of amendments.

[0018] The amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments generates the information about the location of the image cut down by the memory controller 13 of the image amendment circuit 5 mentioned later, and specifically outputs it to an image amendment circuit 5 by making the information which generated into the amount information of amendments by computing a gap of the field angle (picture frame) by vibration and shake from the above-mentioned amendment include-angle information, and correcting this calculation result based on the information on a zoom scale factor.

[0019] About the image data before amendment supplied from the camera digital disposal circuit 4, the image amendment circuit 5 performs amendment processing based on the amount information of amendments from the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments, and supplies the signal after processing (henceforth amended image data) to the encoder circuit 6.

[0020] The encoder circuit 6 processes D/A conversion, addition of a synchronizing signal, etc. to the inputted amended image data, generates the image video signal of an analog, and outputs it to external block which does not illustrate this image video signal, such as a monitor and a recording system.

[0021] Next, the amendment processing which the image amendment circuit 5 performs is explained with reference to drawing 2 thru/or drawing 4 . The image amendment circuit 5

consists of memory controllers 13 which control the memory 12 which has the capacity which can memorize the image data before amendment for at least one frame, and the camera digital disposal circuit 4, the encoder circuit 6, the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments and the above-mentioned memory 12, as shown in drawing 2.

[0022] The memory controller 13 of the image amendment circuit 5 once writes the image data before amendment from the inputted camera digital disposal circuit 4 in memory 12 as image data of one frame. And the memory controller 13 cuts down an image about the image data of one frame written in memory 12 based on the amount information of amendments from the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments.

[0023] The situation of this processing is typically expressed to drawing 3 and drawing 4. About the image data 20 of one frame shown in drawing 3 (A) written in memory 12, based on the amount information of amendments from the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments, as shown in drawing 3 (B), the memory controller 13 is cut down about the logging image 21 used as the object to start, and pinpoints a location.

[0024] Here, drawing 4 shows the relation between an amendment include angle and a zoom scale factor, and shows the case where an amendment include angle is equivalent to (B) and (C) in the case where an amendment include angle is zero, and zoom scale factors differ to (A), respectively. Namely, about the image data 20 of one frame written in memory 12, when an amendment include angle is zero, as shown in drawing 4 (A), the memory controller 13 of the image amendment circuit 5 cuts down the image of the predetermined range of the center of the image data 20, and cuts it down as an image 21. Moreover, about the image data 20 of one frame written in memory 12, as shown in drawing 4 (B) and (C), when an amendment include angle is equivalent, in the amount of amendments according to a zoom scale factor, the memory controller 13 cuts down the image of the predetermined range of the image data 20, and cuts it down as an image 21. The case where a zoom scale factor is higher than the logging image 21 which the direction of the logging image 21 shown in drawing 4 (C) specifically shows to drawing 4 (B) is shown, for example, if a zoom scale factor doubles, the amount of amendments will also double by the same ratio.

[0025] Furthermore, as shown in drawing 3 (C), the memory controller 13 cuts down the above-mentioned logging image 21 from memory 12, and outputs it to the encoder circuit 6 by using this logging image 21 as the image data after amendment.

[0026] Even if it is the case where vertical vibration occurs at the time of transit of the car concerned by image pick-up equipment's 1 making this a mounted camera by repeating such processing and performing it, and carrying in cars, such as an automobile and an electric car, an image without a shake is outputted from the encoder circuit 6, and it becomes possible to display on a monitor etc. Here, the case where image pick-up equipment 1 is used as a mounted camera of an automobile is explained with reference to drawing 5.

[0027] As shown in drawing 5 (A), image pick-up equipment 1 is carried in an automobile 30, and if the car body of an automobile 30 vibrates up and down by the irregularity of a road surface, etc. the time of acceleration or moderation, etc. in photoing other automobiles 31 which run the front with this image pick-up equipment 1 for a predetermined zoom scale factor, the acceleration sensor 7 built in image pick-up equipment 1 will detect this vibration as acceleration information. At this time, it will be computed as an amount X of displacement about vibration of the car body of an automobile 30, or the amount of a shake with image pick-up equipment 1 by changing the acceleration information concerned from an acceleration sensor 7 into the amount information of displacement through the above-mentioned integrating circuit 8 and the offset

cancellation circuit 9.

[0028] And it is $\theta_1 = \tan^{-1}(X/L)$ about the amendment include angle θ_1 so that clearly also from drawing 5 (B), since the distance between two cars of an automobile 30 and an automobile 31 becomes almost equal to a focal distance L when the automobile 31 which runs the front is used as a photographic subject.

It can express with *****. Therefore, in image pick-up equipment 1, it is based on the information on the focal distance L to a photographic subject that the amendment include-angle conversion circuit 10 is supplied from above-mentioned device [focal] 2a of optical system 2. The information on the amount X of displacement of the vertical direction from the offset cancellation circuit 9 is changed into the information on the amendment include angle θ_1 . Neither a shake nor vibration has the photoed image by supplying the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments, and carrying out field angle amendment by making changed information into amendment include-angle information, so that the image amendment circuit 5 may cancel the field angle gap by vibration and shake based on the amount information of amendments from the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments further.

[0029] In addition, vibration of the car body of an automobile 30 differs from a shake by the front-wheel and rear wheel side in fact in many cases. Also in this case, what is necessary is to set to two the acceleration sensor 7 connected to an integrating circuit 8, and just to suppose that every one acceleration sensor 7 of these is attached in the both sides by the side of the front wheel of an automobile 30, and a rear wheel, as shown in drawing 6 (A) in order to cope with it.

[0030] And the amount of displacement by the side of a front wheel is set to X_1 , the amount of displacement by the side of a rear wheel is set to X_2 , and image pick-up equipment (in this case, since the acceleration sensor 7 has dissociated, referred to as image pick-up equipment 1A.) is installed in the core between the wheels of a front wheel and a rear wheel. In this case, it is $\theta_3 = \theta_1 + \theta_2 = \tan^{-1}(X_1+X_2)/L + \tan^{-1}(X_1-X_2)/l$ about the amendment include angle θ_3 as a focal distance L and a distance l between wheels so that clearly also from drawing 6 (B).

It can express with *****. Therefore, in image pick-up equipment 1A, it is based on the information on the focal distance L to a photographic subject that the amendment include-angle conversion circuit 10 is supplied from above-mentioned device [focal] 2a of optical system 2. The information on the amounts X_1 and X_2 of displacement of the vertical direction by the side of both the wheels from the offset cancellation circuit 9 is changed into the information on the amendment include angle θ_3 . By supplying the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments, and carrying out field angle amendment further, by making changed information into amendment include-angle information, so that the image amendment circuit 5 may cancel the field angle gap by vibration and shake based on the amount information of amendments from the amount conversion circuit 11 of amendments Rather than image pick-up equipment 1, the precision of field angle amendment goes up further, and neither a shake nor vibration has the photoed image further.

[0031] Thus, according to the image pick-up equipments 1 and 1A, when carried in a car as a mounted camera, a photograph can be stabilized and taken, without being influenced by the vibration at the time of the transit generated by the time of the irregularity of a road surface, acceleration, or moderation etc., and shake.

[0032] Furthermore, according to the image pick-up equipments 1 and 1A, it becomes possible to raise the detection precision in the image processing system concerned by considering as the configuration which amends vibration of an image, and a shake in the image processing system

which performs image processings, such as tailing.

[0033] In addition, in the gestalt of operation mentioned above, although the case where image pick-up equipment was used as a mounted camera of an automobile was explained, as for this invention, it is needless to say that it is not limited to this and can be used as a mounted camera of all cars, such as two-wheel barrows, such as a bicycle and a motorcycle, and an electric car.

[0034]

[Effect of the Invention] Since the amendment processing about the image which a video output amendment means outputs about the video signal which an image pick-up means generated based on the detection result of an oscillating detection means detect vibration of the vertical direction of a car, and the calculation result of a distance calculation means carries out according to the image pick-up equipment concerning this invention as having explained to a detail above, when it uses as a mounted camera, it becomes that it is possible in carrying out the suitable amendment to vibration of a car.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram showing the configuration of the image pick-up equipment which applied this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the block diagram showing the example of a configuration of the image amendment circuit of the above-mentioned image pick-up equipment.

[Drawing 3] It is drawing explaining the processing which cuts down an image, and the image with which (C) was started in the condition of (B) having started the condition of having pinpointed the center position about the logging image used as the object to start, and having computed the range of an image about the image data of one frame which (A) wrote in memory is shown, respectively.

[Drawing 4] It is drawing for explaining the relation between an amendment include angle and a zoom scale factor, and a logging image in case an amendment include angle is equivalent to (B) and (C) in a logging image in case an amendment include angle is zero and zoom scale factors differ is shown in (A), respectively.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing explaining the case where carry image pick-up equipment in an automatic in the car one, and it is used as a mounted camera, and the principle in which (B) computes the amendment include angle theta 1 about the case where (A) photos other automobiles is shown, respectively.

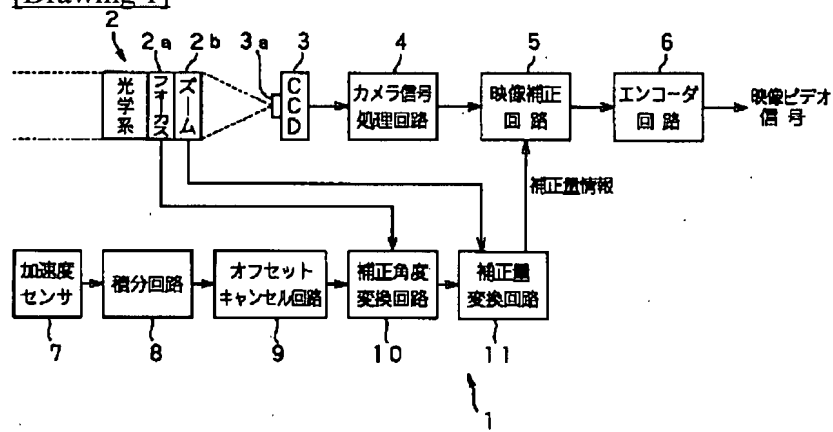
[Drawing 6] It is drawing explaining the case where carry the image pick-up equipment about the gestalt of other operations of this invention in an automatic in the car one, and it is used as a mounted camera, and the principle in which (B) computes the amendment include angle theta 3 about the case where (A) attaches an acceleration sensor in a front-wheel and rear wheel side, respectively is shown, respectively.

[Description of Notations]

1 1A Image pick-up equipment, 2 Optical system, 3 A CCD imager, 4 A camera digital disposal circuit, 5 An image amendment circuit, 7 An acceleration sensor, 8 An integrating circuit, 10 An amendment include-angle conversion circuit, 11 The amount conversion circuit of amendments, 12 Memory, 13 A memory controller, 21 A logging image and 30 Automobile

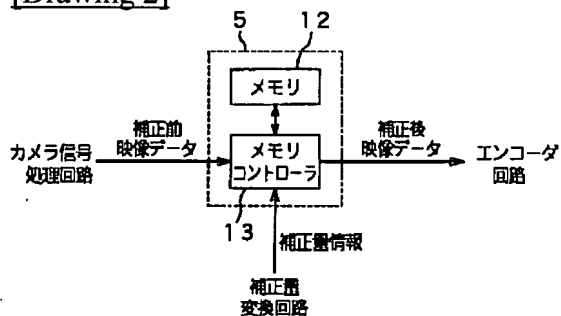
DRAWINGS

[Drawing 1]



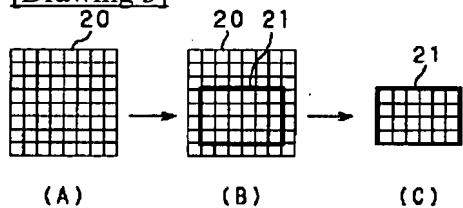
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[Drawing 2]

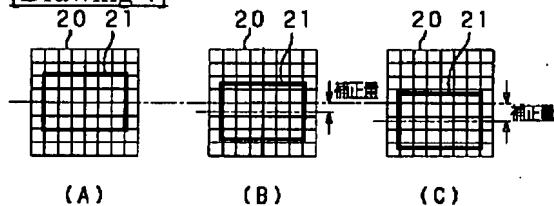


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[Drawing 3]

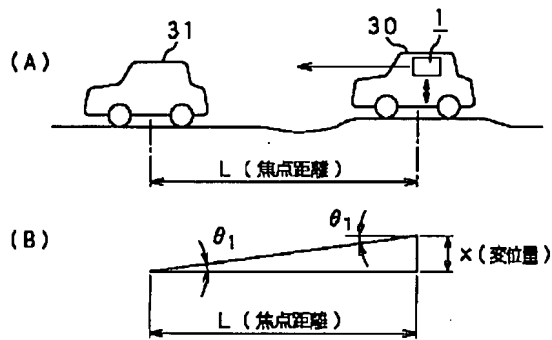


[Drawing 4]

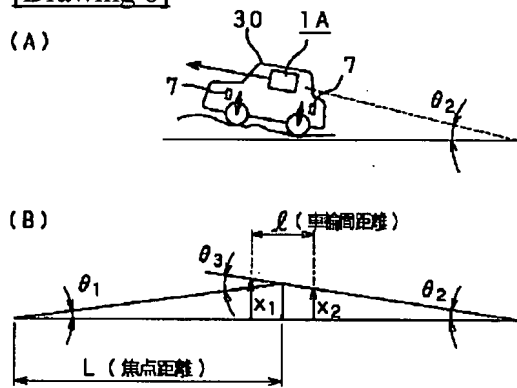


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[Drawing 5]



[Drawing 6]



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[Translation done.]

(11)特許出願公開番号

(43)公開日 平成11年(1999)11月30日

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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 車両内に搭載され車両外の被写体を撮像する撮像装置において、

上記被写体を撮像して撮像信号を生成する撮像手段と、
上記車両の上下方向の振動を検出する振動検出手段と、
被写体までの距離を算出する距離算出手段と、

上記撮像手段の生成した上記映像信号について、上記振動検出手段の検出結果及び上記距離算出手段の算出結果に基づいて、出力する映像についての補正処理を行う映像出力補正手段とを備えることを特徴とする撮像装置。

【請求項2】 上記振動検出手段は、上記車両の上下方向の振動を加速度で検出する加速度センサと、上記加速度センサの検出した加速度から上記車両の上下方向の変位量を算出する変位量算出手段とを備えることを特徴とする請求項1記載の撮像装置。

【請求項3】 上記映像出力補正手段は、上記撮像手段の生成した上記映像信号について一旦記憶し、上記振動検出手段の検出結果及び上記距離算出手段の算出結果に基づいて、出力する映像の画角についての補正処理を行うことを特徴とする請求項2に記載の撮像装置。

【請求項4】 上記映像出力補正手段は、出力する映像の画角について、

上記振動検出手段により検出された上記車両の上下方向の上下方向の変位量をX、上記距離算出手段により算出された被写体までの距離をLとして、

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(X/L)$$

の補正角度で、出力する映像の画角についての補正処理を行うことを特徴とする請求項3に記載の撮像装置。

【請求項5】 上記振動検出手段は、上記車両の前輪側に配設され、当該車両の前輪側の上下振動を検出する第1の振動検出手段と、上記車両の後輪側に配設され、当該車両の後輪側の上下振動を検出する第2の振動検出手段とからなり、

上記映像出力補正手段は、上記撮像手段の生成した上記映像信号について、各振動検出手段の検出結果及び上記距離算出手段の算出結果に基づいて、出力する映像についての補正処理を行うことを特徴とする請求項1に記載の撮像装置。

【請求項6】 上記撮像手段は、上記車両の前輪側と後輪側の略中間位置に配設されることを特徴とする請求項5に記載の撮像装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、車両内に搭載され車両外の被写体を撮像する車載カメラ用の撮像装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】近年、ビデオカメラ等の撮像装置が広く一般に普及し、その用途、使用方法などについて多様化が図られている。撮像装置は、最近では、例えば車載カ

メラとして自動車等の車両内に搭載されることによって、当該車両を走行させながら相対的に移動する外部の被写体について迫力ある映像を撮影したり、警察が犯人検挙のための証拠映像を撮影する、等の用途に用いられている。

【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで、ビデオカメラ等の撮像装置を車載カメラとして使用する場合には、自動車等の走行時に発生する上下振動により撮影時の画像が揺れてしまう、といった問題があった。自動車等の車両は、そのサスペンションが年々高性能化しており、振動の吸収についても優れた特性を有するものが多いが、振動を完全に吸収することはできない。このため、車両の走行中に車載カメラで外部の被写体を撮影するときには、凹凸の多い道路を走行する等の場合に主に上下方向への振動が発生し、撮影した映像が揺れてしまうことになる。

【0004】なお、最近の撮像装置は、手振れ補正機能を有するものが一般に普及している。この手振れ補正機能は、例えば角速度センサで一定方向の揺れ量を角速度で検出して、その検出結果に応じて撮影する画像に対する光学的或いは電気的な補正を行うものである。

【0005】しかしながら、この手振れ補正機能は、撮像装置を手で持って使用することを前提とした機能であるため、撮像装置を車載カメラとして使用した場合には良い結果が得られず、撮影画像が揺れてしまうという問題があった。具体的には、撮像装置の手振れ補正機能は、手でカメラの本体を把持した場合に、その手首を支点とした2軸方向の角速度から揺れ量を算出して、この算出結果に基づいて撮像画像に対する補正を行うようになっていた。そのため、手振れ補正機能を有する撮像装置であっても、これを車載カメラとして使用した場合には、自動車等の走行時に主に発生する上下方向への振動に対しての揺れ量を正しく算出することができず、その結果撮影画像に対する補正を適切に行うことができない、という問題点を有していた。

【0006】本発明は、このような実情に鑑みて提案されたものであって、車載カメラとして使用した場合に、車両の振動に対する適切な補正を行うことのできる撮像装置を提供することを目的とする。

【0007】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は、上記課題を解決するため、車両内に搭載され車両外の被写体を撮像する撮像装置において、被写体を撮像して撮像信号を生成する撮像手段と、車両の上下方向の振動を検出する振動検出手段と、被写体までの距離を算出する距離算出手段と、撮像手段の生成した映像信号について、振動検出手段の検出結果及び距離算出手段の算出結果に基づいて、出力する映像についての補正処理を行う映像出力補正手段とを備える。

【0008】撮像装置においては、映像出力補正手段が、撮像手段の生成した映像信号について、振動検出手段の検出結果及び距離算出手段の算出結果に基づいて、出力する映像についての補正処理を行う。

【0009】

【発明の実施の形態】本発明を適用した撮像装置の実施の形態につき図面を参照しながら詳細に説明する。撮像装置1は、図1に示すように、被写体の撮像光を入力する光学系2と、光学系2からの撮像光を電気信号に変換するCCDイメージャ3と、CCDイメージャ3からの撮像光についての電気信号に所定処理を施すカメラ信号処理回路4と、カメラ信号処理回路4からの処理後の信号について補正処理を行う映像補正回路5と、映像補正回路5からの信号に所定処理を施してアナログの映像ビデオ信号として出力するエンコーダ回路6を備えている。また、撮像装置1は、一定方向の振動を検出する加速度センサ7と、加速度センサ7からの検出信号を2回積分する積分回路8と、加速度センサ7及び積分回路8によって生じるオフセット分を除去するオフセットキャンセル回路9と、補正角度変換回路10と、補正量変換回路11とを備えている。

【0010】光学系2は、図示しない複数の光学レンズ、各光学レンズを駆動するフォーカス機構2a、ズーム機構2b等を備えている。光学系2においては、被写体の撮像光が各光学レンズを介してCCDイメージャ3に供給されるとともに、フォーカス機構2aが被写体までの焦点距離の情報を上記補正角度変換回路10に、ズーム機構2bがズーム倍率の情報を補正量変換回路11にそれぞれ供給するようになっている。

【0011】CCDイメージャ3は、撮像素子としてのCCD (Charge Coupled Device: 電荷結合素子) と、このCCDを駆動するCCD駆動回路からなる。このCCDイメージャ3は、光学系2からの撮像光を上記CCDの配置された受光面3aで受光し、受光した撮像光をCCD駆動回路で電気信号に変換してカメラ信号処理回路4に出力する。

【0012】カメラ信号処理回路4は、入力したCCDイメージャ3からの電気信号にサンプルホールド、A/D変換などの処理を施してデジタルの撮像信号を生成し、このデジタルの撮像信号（以下、補正前映像データという。）を映像補正回路5に供給する。

【0013】加速度センサ7は、一定方向の加速度を加速度情報として検出するものである。撮像装置1においては、この加速度センサ7が、例えば図示しない筐体やシャーシ等に取り付けられることにより、撮像装置1全体に加わる上下方向の加速度を加速度情報として検出するようになっている。

【0014】積分回路8は、加速度センサ7で検出された加速度情報を2回積分して動き量情報を生成し、この動き量情報をオフセットキャンセル回路9に出力する。

【0015】オフセットキャンセル回路9は、入力した動き量情報から、加速度センサ7や積分回路8により生じる定常誤差、温度ドリフト等の成分を除去して、上下方向の変位量についての変位量情報を生成する。

【0016】補正角度変換回路10は、光学系2の上記フォーカス機構2aから供給される被写体までの焦点距離の情報に基づいて、オフセットキャンセル回路9からの上下方向の変位量情報を角度の情報に変換して、変換した情報を補正角度情報として補正量変換回路11に供給する。

【0017】補正量変換回路11は、光学系2の上記ズーム機構2bから供給されるズーム倍率の情報と、補正角度変換回路10から供給される補正角度情報とに基づいて、カメラ信号処理回路4からの補正前映像データについての補正量について算出し、算出結果を補正量情報として映像補正回路5に出力する。

【0018】具体的には、補正量変換回路11は、上記補正角度情報から振動・揺れによる画角（画枠）のずれを算出し、この算出結果をズーム倍率の情報に基づいて修正することにより、後述する映像補正回路5のメモリコントローラ13により切り出される画像の位置についての情報を生成し、生成した情報を補正量情報として映像補正回路5に出力する。

【0019】映像補正回路5は、カメラ信号処理回路4から供給される補正前映像データについて、補正量変換回路11からの補正量情報に基づいた補正処理を施して、処理後の信号（以下、補正済映像データという。）をエンコーダ回路6に供給する。

【0020】エンコーダ回路6は、入力した補正済映像データに対してD/A変換や同期信号の付加等の処理を施してアナログの映像ビデオ信号を生成し、この映像ビデオ信号を図示しないモニタや記録系などの外部ブロックに出力する。

【0021】次に、映像補正回路5の行う補正処理について、図2乃至図4を参照して説明する。映像補正回路5は、例えば図2に示すように、少なくとも1フレーム分の補正前映像データを記憶できる容量を有するメモリ12と、カメラ信号処理回路4、エンコーダ回路6、補正量変換回路11、及び上記メモリ12を制御するメモリコントローラ13とから構成される。

【0022】映像補正回路5のメモリコントローラ13は、入力したカメラ信号処理回路4からの補正前映像データを、1フレームの映像データとしてメモリ12に一旦書き込む。そして、メモリコントローラ13は、メモリ12に書き込んだ1フレームの映像データについて、補正量変換回路11からの補正量情報に基づいて画像を切り出す。

【0023】この処理の様子を図3及び図4に模式的に表す。メモリコントローラ13は、メモリ12に書き込んだ図3(A)に示す1フレームの映像データ20につ

いて、補正量変換回路11からの補正量情報に基づいて、図3(B)に示すように、切り出す対象となる切り出し画像21についての切り出し位置を特定する。

【0024】ここで、図4は、補正角度とズーム倍率との関係を示したものであり、(A)に補正角度が零の場合を、(B)及び(C)に補正角度が同等でズーム倍率が異なる場合をそれぞれ示している。すなわち、映像補正回路5のメモリコントローラ13は、メモリ12に書き込んだ1フレームの映像データ20について、補正角度が零の場合には、図4(A)に示すように、映像データ20の中央の所定範囲の画像を切り出し画像21として切り出す。また、メモリコントローラ13は、メモリ12に書き込んだ1フレームの映像データ20について、図4(B)及び(C)に示すように、補正角度が同等の場合には、ズーム倍率に応じた補正量で映像データ20の所定範囲の画像を切り出し画像21として切り出す。具体的には、図4(C)に示す切り出し画像21の方が図4(B)に示す切り出し画像21よりもズーム倍率が高い場合を示しており、例えばズーム倍率が2倍になれば、補正量も同じ比率で2倍になる。

【0025】さらに、メモリコントローラ13は、図3(C)に示すように、上記切り出し画像21をメモリ12から切り出して、この切り出し画像21を補正後映像データとしてエンコーダ回路6に出力する。

【0026】このような処理を繰り返し行うことにより、撮像装置1は、これを車載カメラとして自動車や電車等の車両に搭載することによって、当該車両の走行時に上下振動が発生した場合であっても、揺れない映像をエンコーダ回路6から出力し、モニタ等に表示することが可能となる。ここで、撮像装置1を自動車の車載カメラとして使用する場合について、図5を参照して説明する。

【0027】図5(A)に示すように、例えば自動車30内に撮像装置1を搭載して、この撮像装置1で前方を走る他の自動車31を所定のズーム倍率で撮影する場合には、路面の凹凸等や加速或いは減速時などにより自動車30の車体が上下に振動すると、撮像装置1に内蔵された加速度センサ7がこの振動を加速度情報として検出する。このとき、撮像装置1では、加速度センサ7からの当該加速度情報が上記積分回路8、オフセットキャンセル回路9を介して変位量情報に変換されることにより、自動車30の車体の振動や揺れの量について、変位量Xとして算出されることになる。

【0028】そして、前方を走る自動車31を被写体とした場合には、自動車30と自動車31との車間距離がほぼ焦点距離Lと等しくなるので、図5(B)からも明らかなように、補正角度 θ_1 について、

$$\theta_1 = \tan^{-1}(X/L)$$

の算出式で表すことができる。従って、撮像装置1においては、補正角度変換回路10が光学系2の上記フォー

カス機構2aから供給される被写体までの焦点距離Lの情報に基づいて、オフセットキャンセル回路9からの上下方向の変位量Xの情報を補正角度 θ_1 の情報に変換して、変換した情報を補正角度情報として補正量変換回路11に供給し、さらに補正量変換回路11からの補正量情報に基づいて、振動・揺れによる画角ずれを映像補正回路5がキャンセルするように画角補正することにより、撮影した映像が揺れや振動のないものとなる。

【0029】なお、実際には、自動車30の車体の振動、揺れは、前輪側と後輪側とで異なる場合が多い。このような場合にも対処するためには、積分回路8に接続される加速度センサ7を2つとし、図6(A)に示すように、これら加速度センサ7を自動車30の前輪側と後輪側の双方に1つずつ取り付けることとすればよい。

【0030】そして、前輪側の変位量を X_1 とし、後輪側の変位量を X_2 とし、撮像装置(この場合は加速度センサ7が分離しているため撮像装置1Aとする。)を前輪と後輪との車輪間の中心に設置するようにする。この場合には、図6(B)からも明らかなように、焦点距離L、車輪間の距離1として、補正角度 θ_3 について、

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_3 &= \theta_1 + \theta_2 \\ &= \tan^{-1}((X_1 + X_2)/L) + \tan^{-1}((X_1 - X_2)/1) \end{aligned}$$

の算出式で表すことができる。従って、撮像装置1Aにおいては、補正角度変換回路10が光学系2の上記フォーカス機構2aから供給される被写体までの焦点距離Lの情報に基づいて、オフセットキャンセル回路9からの両車輪側における上下方向の変位量 X_1 、 X_2 の情報を補正角度 θ_3 の情報に変換して、変換した情報を補正角度情報として補正量変換回路11に供給し、さらに補正量変換回路11からの補正量情報に基づいて、振動・揺れによる画角ずれを映像補正回路5がキャンセルするように画角補正することにより、撮像装置1よりもさらに画角補正の精度が上がり、撮影した映像がより一層揺れや振動のないものとなる。

【0031】このように、撮像装置1、1Aによれば、車載カメラとして車両に搭載した場合に、路面の凹凸、加速或いは減速時などにより発生する走行時の振動、揺れに影響されることなく安定して撮影することができる。

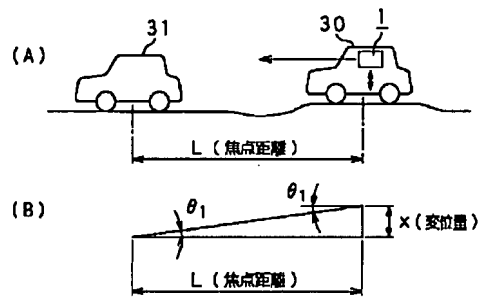
【0032】さらに、撮像装置1、1Aによれば、追尾などの画像処理を行う画像処理システムにおいて映像の振動、揺れを補正する構成とすることにより、当該画像処理システムにおける検出精度を向上させることが可能となる。

【0033】なお、上述した実施の形態においては、撮像装置を自動車の車載カメラとして使用した場合について説明したが、本発明はこれに限定されるものではなく、自転車やオートバイ等の二輪車や電車などのあらゆる車両の車載カメラとして使用できることは勿論であ

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1, 1A 撮像装置、2 光学系、3 CCDイメージャ、4 カメラ信号処理回路、5 映像補正回路、7 加速度センサ、8 積分回路、10 補正角度変換回路、11 補正量変換回路、12 メモリ、13 メモリコントローラ、21 切り出し画像、30 自動車

【図5】



【図6】

